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Empire still lived its larger life in European thought, and had not faded from the dreams of men before the Ottos gave it new reality: this is his central theme. Suggestion he owes to Himly and to Lapôtre, and much of pioneer work to those German scholars whose views it gives him so keen a satisfaction to oppose; but the results of his own research are large and fresh and important. One important document accepted by earlier scholars — the letter of Louis II. to the Greek Emperor Basil — he rejects as a forgery; and a chapter is devoted to proving it so. Its inspirer, thinks M. Kleinclausz, was Pope John VIII. himself, its probable author the librarian Anastasius, its true date the year 879.

The Latin thesis of Dr. Kleinclausz is a less ambitious essay. The first five Capetian Dukes of Burgundy have been sadly eclipsed by their more self-willed and aggressive successors; but from the scanty records left us M. Kleinclausz is able to show how it was their tact, their loyalty, their piety, their patience under royal assumption and feudal turbulence, that made possible under changed conditions the duchy's later prominence. These showings in no wise contravene, but happily supplement the results of such other modern workers in Burgundian history as Petit and Seignobos.

GEORGE L. BURR.

The Growth and Decline of the French Monarchy. By JAMES MACKINNON, Ph.D. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 1902. xx, 840.)

DR. MACKINNON tells us that his book "has grown out of a desire to investigate the origins of the French Revolution." Since these "causes were indirect as well as direct, remote as well as immediate," he found it necessary to review "the history of monarchic France from the Middle Ages onward." But becoming "engrossed" in his subject he studied it "apart from its direct bearing on the Revolution." Looking "at each successive reign from the standpoint of its effects on its period rather than on the future" and regarding the growth of the monarchy as "a process of evolution," he has written "as much a succinct history of the French people as of the French kings." Unfortunately, however, in working out this rather ambitious and inclusive plan he has fallen into several grievous errors.

In his desire to wear a new path through an old field he has been too negligent of critical monographic writing. He has therefore, in view of the pretentious character of his work, incorporated into the details of his narrative an inexcusably large number of mistakes: *e. g.*, the unqualified statement (p. 23) that Colonna subjected Boniface to personal violence; (p. 25 ff.) the prominence given to the Salic law in determining the succession from Philip V. to Philip VI.; (p. 31) Charles of Evreux could have no "prior claim" over Edward as the nearest male descendant of Philip IV., — Charles, by the way, was not born till 1332; (p. 38) the Hundred Years' War was much more than "a mere genealogical contention," and at least part of the blame for it (p. 85) must

be laid on others than the English King; (p. 116) the assembly which Louis XII. consulted concerning the marriage of his daughter was not a "States-General" in the strict meaning of that term; (p. 652) the "complimentary, nay, even affectionate epistles" from Maria Theresa to Madame de Pompadour have been discredited.

In the second place Dr. Mackinnon is unfortunate in his point of view. He interprets everything too much from the vantage-ground of achieved fact, and hears in almost every disturbance in French history the early rumblings of the Revolution. He is, moreover, too intensely modern (p. 347) to enter sympathetically into the spirit of the times he is attempting to portray: *e. g.*, (p. 58) he cannot conceal his disgust at the "mad fourteenth century," that age of the "fighting maniac"; and (p. 111) he is far less just than Adams in his comments on Charles VIII. and his Italian venture. His "grand test of the value of any government is contained in the question, What did it do for the people?" As a modern standard this will do, but to push it back into the period when monarchy was fighting for its life against feudalism, or to make it the only standard before France attained to some small sense of nationality must necessarily result in perversion of judgment and undue harshness in estimating men and events.

To insist too strenuously that the structure of government is of minor importance "compared with the question whether its acts affected France, for the time being, for good or evil," is to run the danger of losing the idea of "evolution" for that of mere chronicle. This is apparent, for example, in the chapter on the Capetians, which one could read and not easily discover what has been called the "debt of gratitude" which France owes to this line of kings, or see, as Funck-Brentano points out, that this dynasty was not so much a self-creation as the product of the conditions which then prevailed.

In striving to maintain the "dramatic" style of his *Edward III.*, Dr. Mackinnon often falls into exaggeration and overstatement; but this is more easily condoned than the vulgarity which too frequently appears: *e. g.*, (p. 77) "the priest gets drunk . . . abducts by night some hussy of a nun to his presbytery"; (p. 204) Catherine de Medici is described as "the worthy dam of such a brood as Charles IX. and Henry III."; (p. 594 ff.) the chapter on Louis XV. and his mistresses could undergo a thorough expurgation and yet convey an adequate idea of the influence of the King's secret sins and public debaucheries on the undoing of the monarchy.

The book as a whole is of the nature of a philippic against absolute monarchy, that "colossal system of usurpation and egotism" (p. 108) whose chief advocate, in setting forth his claims (p. 347), is guilty of the most "arrogant nonsense." But in view of all that has been written on French history it seems hardly necessary to compile eight hundred and fifteen pages before daring to "hazard a definition" of the Revolution as "a reaction against misgovernment, the misgovernment of a long series of absolute kings."